

- (i) the functional splice donor site and the functional splice acceptor site flank a first nucleotide sequence of interest ("NOI");
- (ii) the functional splice donor site is upstream of the functional splice acceptor site; and
- (iii) the retroviral vector is formed as a result of reverse transcription of a retroviral pro-vector, wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises:
 - (a) a first nucleotide sequence ("NS") containing the splice donor site; and
 - (b) a second NS containing the splice acceptor site; wherein the first NS is downstream of the second NS; such that the retroviral vector comprising a first NS containing a functional splice donor site and a second NS containing a functional splice acceptor site is formed as a result of reverse transcription of the retroviral pro-vector.

2. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises a third NS that is upstream of the second NS; wherein the third NS contains a non-functional splice donor site in the retroviral vector.

3. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral vector further comprises a second NOI; wherein the second NOI is downstream of the functional splice acceptor site.

4. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 3 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises the second NOI; wherein the second NOI is upstream of the second NS.

5. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 3 wherein the second NOI, or the expression product thereof, is or comprises a therapeutic agent or a diagnostic agent.

6. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NOI, or the expression product thereof, is or comprises any one or more of an agent conferring selectability, a viral essential element, or a part thereof, or combinations thereof.

7. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NS is at or near to the 3' end of a retroviral pro-vector.

8. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 7 wherein the first NS of the retroviral pro-vector comprises a third NOI; wherein the third NOI is any one or more of a transcriptional control element, a coding sequence, or a part thereof.

9. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NS is a viral NS.

10. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 9 wherein the first NS is an intron or a part thereof.

11. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 10 wherein the intron is the small t-intron of SV40 virus.

12. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises a retroviral packaging signal; and wherein the second NS is located downstream of the retroviral packaging signal such that splicing is prevented at a primary target site.

13. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is placed downstream of the first NOI such that the first NOI is expressed at a primary target site.

14. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is placed upstream of a multiple cloning site such that one or more additional NOIs may be inserted.

15. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is a nucleotide sequence coding for an immunological molecule or a part thereof.

16. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 15 wherein the immunological molecule is an immunoglobulin.

17. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 16 wherein the second NS is a nucleotide sequence coding for an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region.

18. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the vector additionally comprises a functional intron.